

Message Text

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41

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 DODE-00 DPW-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 MC-02 OIC-04

DLOS-07 COA-02 DRC-01 /140 W
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R 200927Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8375

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1454

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJ: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: STATE 119953

1. AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY FADL OBEID JUNE 19 RE OUR CONCERN AT ANY ATTEMPT INCLUDE PRG IN SUBJECT CONFERENCE. NOTING HE SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, AMBASSADOR SAID QUESTION PARTICIPATION IN COMING LUCERNE MEETING HAD, IN OUR VIEW, BEEN DECIDED AT RECENT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW. WHILE LUCERNE MEETING BEING SPONSORED BY ICRC, ITS TITLE MADE CLEAR IT WAS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT RPT GOVERNMENT EXPERTS. PRG DID NOT POSSESS ATTRIBUTES OF SOVEREIGNTY. WE NEVERTHELESS UNDERSTOOD ICRC HAD REOPENED ISSUE IN CIRCULAR TO GOVERNMENTS. EMBASSY HAD BEEN ASKED MAKE CLEAR TO FONMIN USG HOPE THAT SUDAN WOULD REPLY TO ICRC NOTE THAT IT OPPOSED THE PRG PARTICIPATION. OBEID REPLIED HE HAD NOT YET SEEN ICRC CIRCULAR BUT PRESUMED IT WAS BEING TRANSMITTED THROUGH SUDANESE REPRESENTATIVE GENEVA. HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND TOOK CAREFUL NOTE THAT CONFERENCE RESTRICTED TO "GOVERNMENT EXPERTS". OBEID DECLINED SPECULATE RE GOS POSITION

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PENDING RECEIPT ICRC COMMUNICATION.

2. COMMENT: LACKING CABINET STATUS AND WITH HIS MINISTER OUTSIDE SUDAN FAR MORE THAN INSIDE, OBEID FOLLOWS GENERAL PRACTICE NOTING SUCH DEMARCHES WITHOUT BEING IN POSITION PROVIDE FORMAL GOS RESPONSE. MOREOVER, HE FULLY AWARE SUDANESE POLICY IS IN GENERAL TO CONFORM TO THAT OF OTHER NONALIGNED STATES ON SUCH A QUESTION. THEREFORE BELIEVE OUR BEST HOPE RE SUDAN IS THAT CUSTOMARY GOS BUREAUCRATIC BUMBLING WILL RESULT IN SUDANESE FAILURE REPLY TO ICRC CIRCULAR.
BREWER

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